Saskatchewan
Labour

Annual Report
of the
Department of Labour

For the Fiscal Year ended March 31, 1986

Published by the Authority of

The Honourable Grant Schmidt

Minister of Labour

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Photographic Services Agency and the
Technical Safety Services Branch of the
Department of Labour, Government of Saskatchewan

Regina, November 1, 1986

To The Honourable Frederick W. Johnson
Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

Sir:

I have the honour to present herewith the Annual Report of the Department of Labour for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1986.

Respectfully submitted

Grant Schmidt
Minister of Labour

Regina, November 1, 1986

To The Honourable Grant Schmidt
Minister of Labour

Sir:

I have the honour to present herewith the Annual Report of the Department of Labour for the twelve months ended March 31, 1986.

Respectfully submitted

Phil Richards
Deputy Minister of Labour

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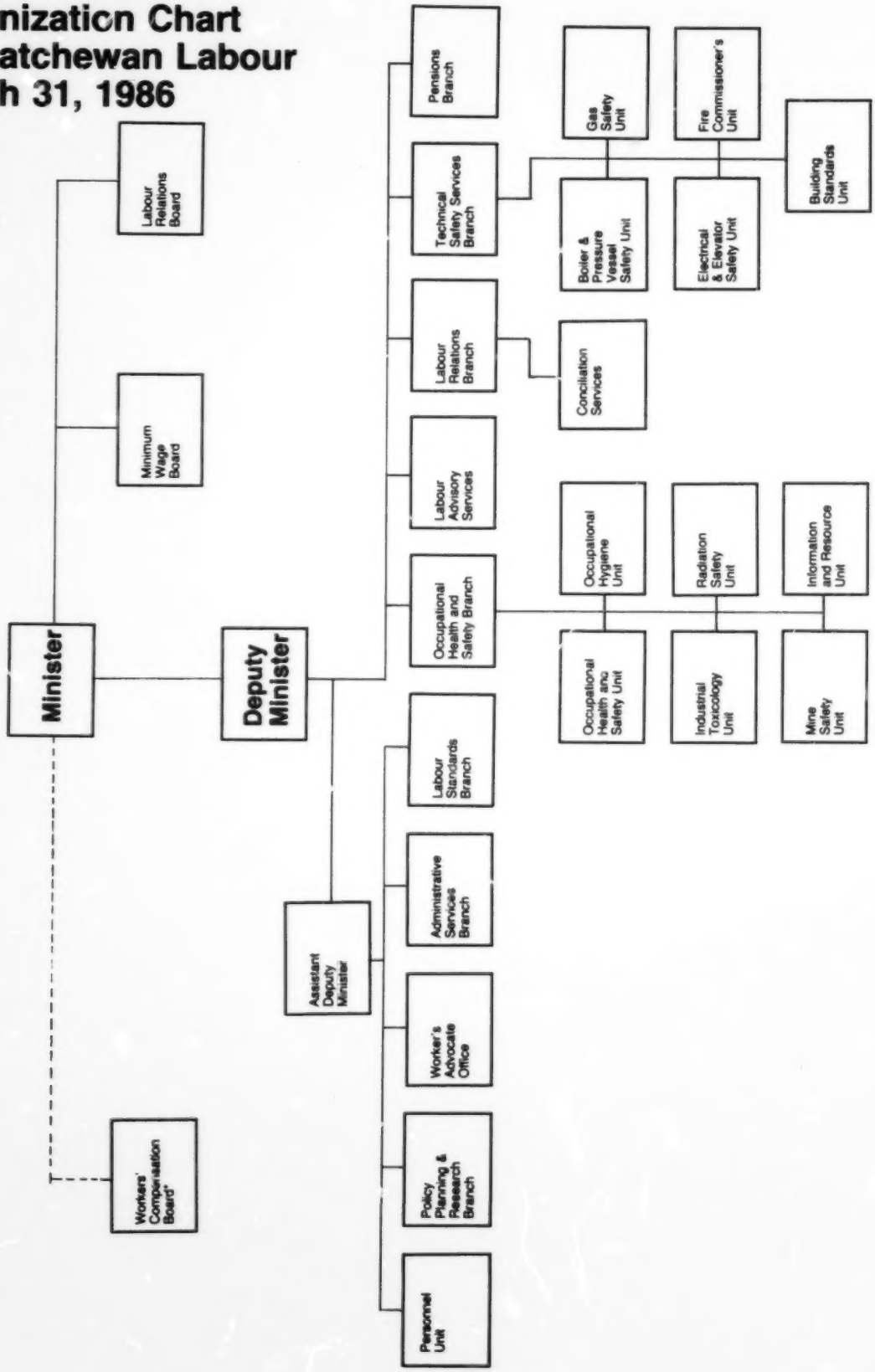
March 31, 1986



Summary of Saskatchewan Department of Labour Activities During 1985-86

The Saskatchewan Department of Labour is established under *The Department of Labour Act*. The department administers a full range of labour statutes designed to establish equitable and healthy conditions of employment for Saskatchewan workers; an effective framework for the operation of collective bargaining for the benefit of labour and management; and safety standards for both the labour force and the general public. Programs in effect include those dealing with labour standards, occupational and public health and safety, labour relations, injured worker protection and retirement pensions.

Labour Standards Branch

During the year under review, the Labour Standards Branch contacted 3,174 employers on behalf of 3,570 employees. Officers gave informational presentations to 51 groups throughout the province explaining the requirements contained in *The Labour Standards Act*. In addition the branch collected $1,667,941.99 in outstanding wages which were distributed to Saskatchewan employees.

Policy Planning and Research Branch

A research, information and publications program designed to provide employers, employees and the public with data on a wide variety of labour topics is maintained by the branch.

Publications distributed by the branch during the 1985-86 fiscal year include: Saskatchewan Labour Report, Non-wage Provisions in Saskatchewan Collective Agreements, 1985, Survey of Wages and Working Conditions, October 1, 1985, and Saskatchewan Labour Annual Report, 1984-85.

Labour Relations Branch

A voluntary conciliation service is available through the branch's Conciliation Services office. During the year under review, labour relations officers provided conciliation in 35 disputes involving a total of 6,122 employees and 103 employers.

Worker's Advocate

The Worker's Advocate office continued to provide advice and assistance to claimants with claims before the Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board. The advocates dealt with a total of 872 claims in 1985-86.

Labour Relations Board

During the 1985-86 fiscal year, the Saskatchewan Labour Relations Board gave consideration to a total of 438 applications made under *The Trade Union Act*.

Occupational Health and Safety Branch

An occupational health program involving the inspection of workplaces, including mines; the investigation, identification and control of health hazards in the workplace; and the provision of education and information was carried out by branch personnel during the fiscal year under review. Of the 3,165 inspections of workplaces (other than mines) performed in 1985-86 by occupational health officers, 61 per cent or 1,933 inspections revealed no contravention of *The Occupational Health and Safety Act* or its regulations.

Technical Safety Services Branch

The branch conducted specialized inspection and licensing to ensure electrical, elevator, boiler and pressure vessel, fire, and gas safety. Inspectors in the four units conducted 93,838 inspections during the 1985-86 fiscal year.

Pensions Branch

During the year under review, the branch continued to administer the provisions of *The Pension Benefits Act*, to provide information and advice on retirement income matters and, in addition, participated in the deliberations of the Canadian Association of Pension Supervisory Authorities (CAPSA).

Administrative Services Branch

The Administrative Services Branch provides administrative services which are essential to the effective operation of the department.

General administrative services provided include:

- financial management, including forecasting and co-ordinating of the department's budgeting process;
- the review and development of administrative policies, procedures and systems employed throughout the department;
- the co-ordination of an overall informatics policy for the department that includes planning for departmental databases, information systems and computer technology to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the department's programs;
- procurement of equipment and supplies;
- evaluation of space and furniture requirements and acquisition of same;
- control and management of departmental inventory;
- the provision of mail services; and
- clerical and administrative support in the district offices.

Specific financial-related services provided are as follows:

- processing of payments;
- the receipt, deposit and accounting for all revenues earned;
- maintenance of accounting records for both payments and receipts;
- issuance of various types of licenses and certificates;
- administration of trust funds;
- preparation of Treasury Board submissions and requests for special warrants and virements; and
- submission of cost-sharing claims to the federal government.

Labour Standards Branch

The Labour Standards Branch ensures that the minimum benefits provided in Saskatchewan legislation with respect to labour standards and working conditions are enjoyed by all employees.

Labour standards officers of the branch investigate complaints laid by employees to ensure compliance with the laws and regulations with respect to labour standards. As a result of inspections by the labour standards officers, the branch collects any wages found owing to employees from their employers and forwards the funds to the employees.

The Labour Standards Branch through the media, pamphlets, and information requests answered by labour standards officers, informs employers and employees of all labour standards legislation and regulations. The officers also address groups for the purpose of explaining the legislation. This service has been further expanded to schools, community groups and any interested individuals.

New Legislation

During the period under review there was no legislation enacted.

Regulations

During the period under review, the minimum wage increased from $4.25 per hour to $4.50 per hour, effective August 1, 1985. There were no other regulations passed.

Labour Standards Main Provisions

The Labour Standards Act applies to all employees working in the province with the following exceptions: agricultural workers; persons employed in undertakings employing only members of the employer's family; and all employees included within the jurisdiction of the Government of Canada. The federal jurisdiction includes all persons employed in broadcasting, air transport, banking, grain elevators, feed mills, uranium mining, and all inter-provincial and international transport and communication systems.

Hours of Work

Under provisions of the Act, employees in the province become entitled to overtime pay at the rate of time and one-half after an eight-hour day and forty-hour week. Excluded from this provision are persons employed exclusively as domestic workers, managers, and certain firefighters.

Employee Wages

The Act requires the payment of all wages to employees within six days after the pay period has ended, and 14 days after the termination of employment of the employee.

Notice of Termination

Provision is made for one to eight weeks of written notice of termination of employment to an employee by an employer depending upon the length of service of the employee. In the absence of written notice, pay in lieu of notice is required, except in cases involving dismissal for just cause.

Annual Vacation

All employees including part time are entitled to three weeks' vacation on the completion of one year of service. An employee entitled to three weeks' vacation must be paid annual holiday pay based on three fifty-seconds (3/52) of his gross annual earnings. After 10 or more years of service, employees are entitled to four weeks' annual holidays, and are entitled to be paid four fifty-seconds (4/52) of total gross wages.

Statutory Holidays

Legislated public holidays in Saskatchewan are New Year's Day, Good Friday, Victoria Day, Canada Day, Saskatchewan Day (first Monday in August), Labour Day, Thanksgiving Day, Remembrance Day and Christmas Day. Where Christmas Day, Remembrance Day or New Year's Day falls on a Sunday, the Monday immediately following each is considered to be the public holiday. Employers are required to provide their employees with a day off with pay on each day that a public holiday occurs, or where the employee is required to work, pay to the employee, in addition to the regular rate of pay, an additional sum calculated on the basis of one and one-half times the regular rate of pay.

Rate of payment of public holiday pay in the construction, logging and lumbering industries is three and one-half per cent of the employee's total wages, excluding overtime.

Maternity, Bereavement, Adoption and Paternity Leave

Employees who have been employed continuously with one employer for 12 months or more are entitled to maternity, bereavement, adoption or paternity leave of up to 18 weeks, five working days, and six weeks, respectively without pay.

Equal Pay

Employees in Saskatchewan who work in the same establishment have a right to equal rates of pay, regardless of sex, when the working conditions are similar and when they are performing work which requires similar skill, effort and responsibility.

Minimum Wage

The branch is responsible for enforcing regulations ordered by the Minimum Wage Board. The minimum wage of $4.50 per hour applies to all employees within the scope of *The Labour Standards Act*.

Activities

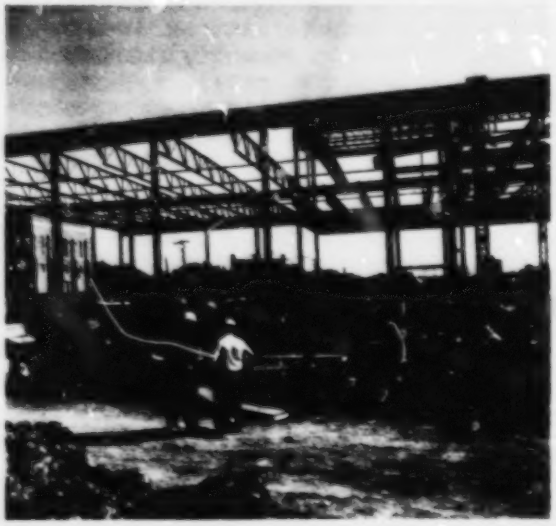
During the year under review 3,174 investigations and routine inspections were conducted. The branch received 2,680 complaints from employees; filed 170 certificates in the Court of Queen's Bench against companies; and filed 53 statements against directors of companies.

Wage Collections

Investigations resulted in the reimbursement of $1,667,941.99 to employees under provisions of the Act. During the year under review $453,106.95 was registered in the Court of Queen's Bench as judgements against companies, and $225,481.02 against directors of companies, under Sections 60 and 63 of the Act.

Prosecutions

During the year under review 42 charges were laid against employers on behalf of 71 employees for a total of $72,571.64 in wages.



Policy Planning and Research Branch

The Policy Planning and Research Branch is responsible for conducting research studies on a full range of labour topics, to facilitate the review of existing programs and to determine new policy directions. Background material is provided to the Deputy Minister to assist in the establishment of the department's position on a wide variety of issues.

The branch monitors, evaluates and reports on the operation of the collective bargaining process. It also collects, organizes and analyzes information on employment, wages and industrial relations trends.

Information obtained as a result of this research is disseminated by the branch. The findings of many of the studies or surveys are published, as are several annual and semi-annual reports. In most cases these reports are free of charge to any person or organization expressing interest in them.

The branch also functions as the statistics bureau, information service and library of the Department of Labour.

Its organization reflects this diverse mandate, being made up of a Policy Planning Unit, a Data Analysis Unit (including a publications co-ordinator) and the department Library.

Policy Planning Unit

The Policy Planning Unit undertakes a broadly-based program of labour research activity. The purpose of this research is to assess the social and economic impact of departmental programs; to measure the effectiveness of existing programs in meeting stated policy objectives; to identify and review new trends in working conditions; to develop program forecasts and recommendations relative to current and new areas of concern to the department; and to provide appropriate research support services to other branches and units of the department and its associated boards and committees. The unit's sphere of activity extends to all legislative, regulatory and administrative programs of the Department of Labour.

Data Analysis Unit

Two major data banks, containing occupational wage rate information and collective bargaining information, are maintained by the unit. The data are analyzed, compiled and distributed to other government agencies and to the public, in addition to its use for planning purposes within the department itself.

Other surveys are carried out, including reports on labour union membership and work stoppages.

A library of Saskatchewan collective agreements is maintained for use by the public.

Branch reports are compiled and a co-ordinating service for all department publications is maintained.

Wage Survey

A major activity undertaken by the unit, in co-operation with Labour Canada, is the operation of the annual mail-out survey, designed to provide current information on occupational wage rates and on working conditions and fringe benefits within Saskatchewan.

The twelfth annual survey was taken in October 1985 among approximately 1,280 business establishments. The results provide information on the salaries and wage rates for 378 occupations as well as information on the working conditions and fringe benefit provisions covering approximately 133,000 workers.

Collective Agreements

Current files of collective bargaining agreements are maintained by the unit. Information on a variety of collective bargaining subjects is constantly requested, and computer programs have been designed to permit analysis of the numerous agreement provisions. During the year, such requests generated information relating to particular occupational wage rates, pay package rates, and fringe benefits such as dental plans and overtime rates.

The study of Non-wage Provisions in Saskatchewan Collective Agreements, produced annually, provides an examination of non-wage provisions contained in provincial collective agreements. A sample of 157 agreements, covering 13,816 employees was analyzed in the study prepared during the year under review.

Work Stoppages During 1985

Current information on work stoppages and time loss is maintained by the Data Analysis Unit.

During the calendar year 1985, there was a total of 25 work stoppages in Saskatchewan. The work stoppages involved 5,119 employees and resulted in a time loss of 56,659 worker-days.

Table 1 shows the number of work stoppages that have occurred in Saskatchewan since 1981, according to number of workers involved and worker-days lost.

Table 1

Work Stoppages,*
Number of Workers Involved and Worker-days Lost,
Saskatchewan, 1981 to 1985

	Number of work stoppages	Number of workers involved	Number of worker-days lost	Number of worker-days lost per non-agricultural paid worker
1981	33	4,767	61,787	0.19
1982	26	11,863	416,245	1.31
1983	10	1,239	28,000	0.09
1984	11	1,366	12,231	0.04
1985	25	5,119	56,659	0.15

* Does not include work stoppages under federal jurisdiction.
Source: Saskatchewan Labour files and Statistics Canada, Labour Force, 71-001.

Labour Union Membership

The unit conducts an annual survey of labour union membership. As of January 1986, labour unions reported a total membership of 98,347, compared with 97,708 members the previous year. Table 2 provides a detailed breakdown of information obtained from the survey.

Table 2

Union Membership and Locals, by Union or Association and Affiliation, Saskatchewan, January 1986

Union or association and affiliation	No. of locals	Member-ship
Total, all labour unions	**625**	**98,347**
Total, Canadian Labour Congress	**396**	**79,679**
Affiliated with the Canadian Labour Congress	**392**	**79,420**
Canadian Union of Public Employees	160	17,406
Saskatchewan Government Employees' Union	20	15,456
Service Employees' International Union*	4	7,412
Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (Saskatchewan Joint Board)	18	4,669
Public Service Alliance of Canada	1	4,412
United Food and Commercial Workers' International Union*	22	3,900
Communications and Electronical Workers of Canada*	7	3,877
Energy and Chemical Workers' Union	13	3,443
United Steelworkers of America*	22	3,105
Grain Services Union	1	2,046
United Transportation Union*	10	1,216
Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees*	22	1,198
Office and Professional Employees' International Union*	1	1,181
International Woodworkers of America*	1	1,095
Canadian Postmasters' and Assistants' Association	1	1,029
Amalgamated Transit Union*	3	754
Canadian Brotherhood of Railway, Transport and General Worke	12	690
International Association of Fire Fighters*	8	685
Canadian Union of Postal Workers	1	664
American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada*	2	626
Letter Carriers' Union of Canada	10	530
Canadian Union of United Brewery, Flour, Cereal, Soft Drinks and Distillery Workers	9	508
Canadian Paperworkers' Union	2	465
Hotel Employees' and Restaurant Employees' International Union*	1	449
Graphic Communications International Union*	4	306
Canadian Division Brotherhood Railway Carmen of the United States and Canada*	6	303
United Garment Workers of America*	2	272
National Association of Broadcast Employees and Technicians	3	260
Brotherhood of Railway, Airline and Steamship Clerks, Freight Handlers, Express and Station Employees*	3	259
Bakery, Confectionery and Tobacco Workers' International Union*	1	1[illegible]
International Association of Machinist and Aerospace Workers*	3	152
Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Artists	1	140
Canadian Air Line Employees' Association	3	130

Table 2 (continued)

Union Membership and Locals, by Union or Association and Affiliation, Saskatchewan, January 1986

Union or association and affiliation	No. of locals	Member-ship
United Mine Workers of America	1	116
International Typographical Union*	4	114
International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and Moving Picture Machine Operators of the United States and Canada*	2	90
Canadian Signal and Communications Union	1	82
Aluminum Brick and Glass Workers International Union*	2	52
International Brotherhood of Firemen and Oilers*	2	45
Canadian Actors' Equity Association	1	44
International Molders and Allied Workers' Union*	1	36
International Union United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America	1	18
Chartered by the Canadian Labour Congress	**4**	**259**
Association of Commercial and Technical Employees' Union	1	143
Saskatchewan Strip Miners' Union	1	59
Saskatchewan Government Employees' Association Employees' Union Local 481	1	33
Roche Percee Coal Miners' Union	1	24
Confederation of Canadian Unions	**1**	**39**
Canadian Association of Industrial Mechanical and Allied Workers	1	39
Affiliated only with AFL-CIO	**8**	**1,976**
United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America	5	975
Labourers' International Union of North America	2	599
International Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Iron Workers	1	402
Affiliated with AFL-CIO-CFL	**25**	**4,825**
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers	5	2,004
United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada	4	809
International Union of Operating Engineers	1	596
Sheet Metal Workers' International Association	1	276
Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' International Association of the United States and Canada	2	271
International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers (Cement, Lime, Gypsum and Allied Division)	6	241
International Brotherhood of Painters and Allied Trades	2	197
International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftsmen	2	129
International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Asbestos Workers	1	65
International Union of Elevator Constructors	1	37
Unaffiliated Labour Unions and Associations	**195**	**12,028**
Saskatchewan Union of Nurses	141	5,374
The University of Saskatchewan Faculty Association	1	982
International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers of America	2	837

Table 2 (continued)

Union Membership and Locals, by Union or Association and Affiliation, Saskatchewan, January 1986

Union or association and affiliation	No. of locals	Member-ship
The University of Regina Faculty Association	1	647
Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada	1	590
Roadbuilders Employees Association	1	523
Regina City Policemen's Association	1	413
Health Sciences Association of Saskatchewan	1	380
International Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers	9	374
Saskatoon City Police Association	1	316
Rocanville Potash Employees' Association	1	308
Saskatchewan Water Corporation Employees' Association	1	154
Develcon Employees Association	1	131
Regina Civic Middle Management Association	1	114
Association of Postal Officials of Canada	1	102
Prince Albert City Policemen's Association	1	78
Regina Pioneer Village Staff Nurses' Association	1	61
North Eastern Dehy Employees' Association	1	55
The Canadian Association of Policemen, Moose Jaw	1	54
Regina Public Board of Education Union of Office Employees	1	52
Canadian Air Traffic Control Association	1	51
Trail-Rite Employees' Association	1	50
Other Unaffiliated Labour Unions and Associations (membership under 50)	24	382

* Affiliated with American Federation of Labour — Congress of Industrial Organization.

1 Communications, Electronic, Electrical, Technical and Salaried Workers of Canada (CLC) changed its name to Communications and Electrical Workers of Canada (CLC).

Source: Annual Survey of Labour Union Membership made by Saskatchewan Labour; Labour Canada and Statistics Canada under *The Corporations and Labour Unions Returns Act*.

In Canada, certain kinds of businesses fall under the legislative authority of the federal government. Establishments under federal jurisdiction include undertakings or businesses connecting two or more provinces or connecting Canada with another country. Examples are railways, highway transport, pipelines, canals, ferries, tunnels, bridges, telephone, telegraph and cable systems. Also included are all shipping and services connected with shipping; all radio and television broadcasting; all air transport, aircraft and airfields; all banks; and primary fishing where the fishermen work for wages. All other businesses, works and establishments are subject to provincial jurisdiction.

Table 3 shows the membership of labour unions under federal, as well as provincial authority, according to five general classifications of employer.

Table 3

Union Membership According to Jurisdiction, by Category of Employer, Saskatchewan, January 1986

		Federal jurisdiction			Provincial jurisdiction		
	Both jurisdictions	Total membership	CLC affiliated	Unaffiliated	Total membership	CLC affiliated	Unaffiliated
Total	**98,347**	**14,791**	**13,507**	**1,284**	**83,556**	**66,172**	**17,384**
Private industry	28,536	2,343	2,061	282	26,193	17,524	8,669
Provincial government	35,935	—	—	—	35,935	31,052	4,883
Federal government	10,402	10,402	9,400	1,002	—	—	—
Municipal government	18,127	—	—	—	18,127	14,574	3,553
Co-operatives	5,347	2,046	2,046	—	3,301	3,022	279

Source: Annual Survey of Labour Union Membership made by Saskatchewan Labour; Labour Canada and Statistics Canada under *The Corporations and Labour Unions Returns Act*.

Branch Publications

- Saskatchewan Labour Report. Published monthly, it provides an overview of conditions of work in the province as well as information on specific labour-related programs. Written decisions of the Saskatchewan Labour Relations Board are included.
- Labour Legislation Booklet. Revised once every two years, it provides information on the main provisions of Saskatchewan labour laws and the agencies responsible for their administration.
- Annual Report of the Department of Labour.
- Wages and Working Conditions by Occupation (annual).
- Non-wage Provisions in Saskatchewan Collective Agreements (annual).

Labour Library

The Labour Library services the information needs of the department, other government departments, numerous organizations and the public. Its 6,000 documents include Statistics Canada publications, federal and provincial government labour reports and other material covering a variety of labour and health and safety topics

Labour Relations Branch

Conciliation Services

Conciliation Services office provides a voluntary conciliation service to assist employers and unions in resolving disputes arising out of the collective bargaining process, with a view to minimizing conflict and work disruption.

Voluntary Conciliation

The conciliation service is offered to labour and industry upon request of either or both parties involved in an industrial dispute.

Disputes may arise during negotiation for an agreement or during the renewal of existing agreements. They may also arise from the application or interpretation of agreements. In disputes resulting in a work stoppage, where no conciliation is requested, the office may approach the opposing parties with a view to resolving the problem.

Conciliation Proceedings During 1985-86

Labour relations officers were called upon to provide conciliation in 35 disputes during the fiscal year 1985-86, involving a total of 6,122 employees and 103 employers. Of these, 12 disputes were still pending settlement with the aid of the Conciliation Services office on March 31, 1986.

Table 4

Conciliation Summary, by Industry, Saskatchewan, 1985-86

Industry	Disputes	Workers involved	Employers involved
All industries	35	6,122	103
Mining	1	360	1
Manufacturing	4	982	4
Construction	3	325	7
Transportation	1	14	1
Trade	16	3,367	69
Finance	1	66	1
Service	—	—	—
Public administration	9	1,008	20
Communication	—	—	—

Source: Saskatchewan Labour, Labour Relations Branch files.

The Worker's Advocate Office

The Worker's Advocate office provides assistance and advice to injured workers and their dependants who have difficult claims before the Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board. The advocates are employees of the Department of Labour, and are completely independent of the Workers' Compensation Board. They have access to all board files, records and other information relating to the claim under investigation.

Assisting Workers

The number of claims handled by the Worker's Advocate office since its establishment in 1973 has increased. Many claims are referred to the advocates by word of mouth. Others are referred by legal assistance clinics, private law firms, doctors, the Provincial Ombudsman, the Workers' Compensation Board, and unions. A number of claims are brought to the advocates' attention by members of the Legislative Assembly and members of the House of Commons.

Upon receiving a request for assistance, the advocate conducts an investigation and advises the worker or dependant of the possible course of action to be taken. The advocate may appeal a claim on an injured worker's behalf and provide representation at meetings between the claimant and the various levels of the Workers' Compensation Board.

The advocates may decline to provide assistance if it is apparent that there are no grounds to appeal the decision of the board.

Public Relations and Education Programs

The Worker's Advocate office responds to all requests for speaking engagements and conducts educational programs. Emphasis is placed on education and public relations programs by the advocates in an effort to assist workers, their dependants, or their union representative in filing or appealing claims.

Claims

Files in the Worker's Advocate office are opened under the name of the injured worker. Once a file has been closed, it may be re-opened if new information is presented which provides grounds to appeal a previous decision of the Workers' Compensation Board. As well, the advocates may re-open a file if a new problem arises on a previous claim, or if approached concerning a new claim.

During the fiscal year 1985-86, the influx of claims continued. New claims for this period totalled 363, and closed files which were re-opened totalled 159.

A summary of the claims handled by the Worker's Advocate office during the period under review is shown in the tables immediately following. Table 5 provides information regarding the number of claims processed while Table 6 shows the disposition of claims processed.

Table 5

Claims Processed by the Worker's Advocate Office, Saskatchewan, 1985-86

Claims	Number
Total claims	**872**
New claims	363
Claims carried over from 1984-85 fiscal year	350
Files re-opened	159
Claims closed	**392**
Claims remaining open as of March 31, 1986	**480**

Source: Saskatchewan Labour, Worker's Advocate office files.

Table 6

Claims Processed by the Worker's Advocate Office, by Disposition, Saskatchewan, 1985-86

Disposition	Number
Information provided (inquiry)	201
Investigation	663
Claim from other province	—
Claim initiated with Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board	—
Appeal to a medical review panel	6
Representation at permanent functional impairment meetings (responsible for awarding lump sum settlements)	13
Appeal to the Earnings Replacement Committee	42
Appeal to Appeals Committee	98
Appeal to claims officer	61
Appeal to Workers' Compensation Board members	69
Request for rehabilitation assistance	25
Appeal to rehabilitation department	22

Source: Saskatchewan Labour, Worker's Advocate office files.

Labour Relations Board

The main provisions of *The Trade Union Act* are administered by the Labour Relations Board. The board is empowered to issue orders that certify unions as bargaining representatives for appropriate units of employees; that require persons to refrain from unfair labour practices; that reinstate employees discharged contrary to *The Trade Union Act*; and, that require an employer to comply with provisions relating to the introduction of a technological change. Also, the board may act as an arbitration board and determine any dispute referred to it by employers and trade unions.

At the end of March 1986, the membership of the board was as follows:

Dennis P. Ball, Chairman, Regina
John R. Hobbs, Vice-chairman, Regina
C.C. Cave, Moose Jaw
J. Forsyth, Regina
K. Hutchinson, Regina
J. Jones, Regina
B.J. Keple, Regina
E. Lochrie, Saskatoon
C. Lyons, Saskatoon
J. MacLeod, Regina
G. McCormick, Regina
B. McDonald, Saskatoon

Labour Relations Board Meetings 1985-86

Between April 1, 1985 and March 31, 1986 the Labour Relations Board held 12 monthly meetings lasting a total of 130 days. The average number of days per meeting was accordingly 10.8 days.

Applications to the Board

A total of 438 applications was considered by the board during the year under review. Of these, four were applications under Section 11, subsection (8) and Section 45 of *The Trade Union Act*. Table 7 shows these applications by type of application and disposition. The five-year trend in the annual number of applications to the board under *The Trade Union Act* is shown by type and disposition in Tables 8 and 9 respectively.

During 1985-86, a total of 84 certification orders covering 1,270 employees was issued by the board and 33 certification orders affecting 247 employees were rescinded.

Table 7

Applications to the Labour Relations Board under Sections 5, 11(8), 24, 37, 43, and 45 of *The Trade Union Act*, by Type of Application and Disposition, Saskatchewan, 1985-86

Type of applications by disposition	Applications
Total applications	422 *
Granted	199
Dismissed	117
Withdrawn	104 †
Determined	2
Certification	
(Section 5, clauses a, b, and c)	102
Granted	84
Dismissed	7
Withdrawn	11
Unfair labour practice	
(Section 5, clause d)	98
Granted	22
Dismissed	38
Withdrawn	38
Reinstatement	
(Section 5, clause f)	61
Granted	17
Dismissed	29
Withdrawn	15
Monetary loss	
(Section 5, clause g)	65
Granted	21
Dismissed	27
Withdrawn	17
Company dominated	
(Section 5, clause h)	2
Granted	—
Dismissed	—
Withdrawn	2
Amendment or rescission	
(Section 5, clauses i, j, and k)	76
Granted	54
Dismissed	10
Withdrawn	12
Exclusion on religious grounds	
(Section 5, clause 1)	1
Granted	1
Dismissed	—
Withdrawn	—
Strike votes*	
(Section 11[8])	
Applications made	2
Dismissed	1
Withdrawn	1
Reference of dispute	
(Section 24)	6
Determined	2
Dismissed	2
Withdrawn	2
Transfer of Obligations	
(Section 37)	5
Granted	—
Dismissed	1
Withdrawn	4
Technological Change	
(Section 43)	2
Granted	—
Dismissed	—
Withdrawn	2
Ratification votes	
(Section 45)	2
Granted	—
Dismissed	2
Withdrawn	—

* An additional 16 applications are newly received and are awaiting disposition. These 16 are not included in this table.

† Fifty-eight applications received during the 1984-85 fiscal year were withdrawn during 1985-86 and one application was adjourned sine die. These 58 withdrawals are not included in this table.

Table 8

Applications to the Labour Relations Board under Sections 5, 11(8), 24, 37, 43, and 45 of *The Trade Union Act*, by Type of Application, Saskatchewan, 1981-82 to 1985-86

Type of application	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86
Total applications	**570**	**533**	**454**	**524**	**422**
Certification (Section 5, clauses a, b, and c)	249	181	187	118	102
Unfair labour practices (Section 5, clause d)	110	124	80	126	98
Reinstatement (Section 5, clause f)	75	79	56	50	61
Monetary loss (Section 5, clause g)	77	82	57	52	65
Company dominated (Section 5, clause h)	—	—	1	—	2
Amendment or rescission (Section 5, clauses i, j and k)	46	61	65	106	76
Exclusion on religious grounds (Section 5, clause l)	8	5	4	1	1
Strike votes (Section 11[8])	—	—	2	62	2
Reference of dispute (Section 24)	2	1	1	3	6
Transfer of obligation (Section 37)	2	—	—	3	5
Technological change (Section 43)	1	—	1	2	2
Ratification votes (Section 45)	—	—	—	1	2

Table 9

Applications to the Labour Relations Board under *The Trade Union Act*, by Disposition, Saskatchewan, 1981-82 to 1985-86

Year	Total applications	Granted	Dismissed	Withdrawn	Determined*
1981-82	569	332	83	152	2
1982-83	533	277	129	127	—
1983-84	454	227	114	113	—
1984-85	524	215	62	188	1
1985-86	422	199	117	104†	2

* Under *The Trade Union Act* the board may determine the outcome of any dispute referred to it by either party to the dispute. The decision of the board shall be final and binding.

† During the year 1984-85, 58 applications under Section 11(8) of *The Trade Union Act* were received but were not finalized until 1985-86 when they were withdrawn.

Occupational Health and Safety Branch

The Occupational Health and Safety Branch is responsible for administering legislation governing all aspects of health or safety in workplaces under Saskatchewan jurisdiction.

Worker Protection

The branch achieves its mandate through inspection of workplaces by the Occupational Health and Safety Unit, the Mine Safety Unit and Occupational Hygiene Unit; the provision of advice and information through the Toxicology, Radiation Safety, Information and Resource, and the inspection units; and the provision of information bulletins, courses on occupational health and safety, and support of occupational health committees.

Information and Resource Unit

The Information and Resource Unit is responsible for organizing and conducting training courses and programs to assist occupational health committees to better discharge their duties under the Act and regulations; for preparing and distributing hazard alerts and other information on significant occupational health and safety matters; for responding to requests for information from other branch personnel, other government bodies, committees and the public; for co-ordinating the preparation of regulations and supporting explanatory and interpretational material; and for preparing and maintaining statistics on occupational accidents and morbidity.

Branch Newsletter

The Safe Workplace is sent to every workplace covered under provincial jurisdiction. The newsletter is intended to inform employers, occupational health committees and employees regarding provincial occupational health and safety requirements, to increase awareness of hazards in the workplace and to promote safe work practices that may reduce accidents. During the period covered by this report, two issues of the newsletter were distributed.

Audio-visual Library

The library provides a free loan service of audio-visual material to occupational health committees, professionals from industry and government, and the general public. The collection contains 110 films and 10 video cassettes on general safety and occupational health and safety. The film lending service was heavily used, with 1,566 showings to audiences totalling approximately 29,800 persons.

Occupational Health and Safety Unit

The Occupational Health and Safety Unit is responsible for programs to promote health and safety in the workplace by: assisting occupational health committees, employers, workers and self-employed persons in maintaining reasonable standards for protection of the health and safety of workers; and conducting inspections and ensuring the compliance with *The Occupational Health and Safety Act* and associated regulations.

New Regulations

During the period under review, new regulations on occupational health and safety were passed by the Legislative Assembly. The new regulations are a consolidation of *The Occupational Health and General Regulations*, *The Accident Prevention Regulations for the Forestry Industry* and *The Accident Prevention Regulations for the Oil and Natural Gas Industry*. The consolidated regulations now include all occupational health and safety requirements apart from *The Mines Regulations*.

The new *Occupational Health and Safety Regulations* will encourage substantial improvements in worker health and safety and remove many of the ambiguities and unenforceable provisions in the previous regulations. Some of the principle changes in the new regulations relate to: roll-over protective equipment; equipment lock-out procedures; confined spaces; crane inspections; construction and demolition site practices; and oil drilling and forestry operations. The new regulations also require employers to immediately report to the Department of Labour certain serious injuries and dangerous occurrences, in addition to the previous duty to report fatalaties.

Inspections

During the fiscal year 1985-86, occupational health officers, accompanied by occupational health committee members, conducted 3,165 inspections and ordered the correction of 1,232

contraventions of the Act and regulations. Comparable figures for 1984-85 were 2,419 inspections and 1,085 contraventions. Inspectors also conducted 18 visits to monitor working environments and other related concerns.

Occupational Health Committees

The occupational health officers continued to assist workers and employers to improve and strengthen the functioning of the occupational health committees. During the fiscal year, the officers made contact with committees on 1,370 occasions.

Investigations

Investigations were conducted into 37 accidents, including 16 which involved loss of life. Special investigations were also conducted in response to complaints from workers, families and other interested persons.

Prosecutions

Six prosecutions were undertaken during the 1985-86 fiscal year. Two charges were dismissed. Another two are still before the courts. In the two remaining cases, the companies were found guilty and ordered to pay fines totalling $1,800.

Mine Safety Unit

The functions of the Mine Safety Unit are to ensure that mining operations in Saskatchewan are conducted in accordance with the requirements of *The Occupational Health and Safety Act*, *The Mines Regulations* and other associated regulations; to promote the effective operation of the occupational health committees at all mines; and to promote healthy and safe working conditions by giving advice and guidance to operators or workers, either individually or through the committee structure.

Inspections

Compliance with the legislation at mining operations is achieved by frequent inspections. Inspectors of the unit wrote reports containing 733 notices of contravention and, as well, reported 751 less serious conditions which required corrective action during the year ending March 31,1986. Comparable figures for 1984-85 were 131 notices of contravention and 1,181 less serious recorded items. Inspectors also carried out investigations of serious accidents and dangerous occurrences; inspected hoisting systems; carried out radiation, ventilation, noise and dust surveys; and made necessary investigations before issuing approval for various phases of mining operations.

Mine Rescue

The Mine Safety Unit took an active part in the training of mine rescue personnel. Eleven sessions for mine rescue instructors, co-ordinators, managers and mine rescue committees were held, and in conjunction with these, nine in-plant inspections of mine rescue training procedures, rescue equipment and facilities for training were conducted. One two-day training session with 29 rescue instructors was also held. Examinations were held to determine competency in mine rescue resulting in the issuance of one instructor's and 28 provincial mine rescue certificates. Thirteen supervisors were examined for competency in emergencies and all 13 were issued certificates.

Four mine rescue competitions were judged, including the provincial competition. The Provincial Mine Rescue Competition, sponsored by the Saskatchewan Mining Association, was judged by inspectors of the unit. The Mine Rescue Competition was won by Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan Mining Limited, Lanigan Division, and the First Aid Competition was won by International Minerals and Chemical Corporation (Canada) Limited, Esterhazy.

Courses — Certification Programs

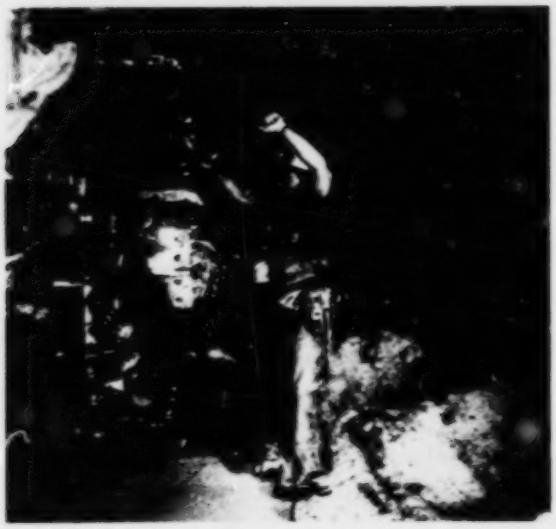
Inspectors of the unit conducted examinations for Blasting Certificates; 64 certificates were awarded. In addition, seven courses in the Safe Handling and Use of Explosives were conducted for 144 people in Saskatchewan. Examinations for Hoisting Certificates were also held; 22 certificates were awarded.

The Mines Regulations require that workers in underground and open pit operations be supervised by individuals possessing specified qualifications, including a certificate indicating satisfactory knowledge of the law pertaining to health and safety. Following examinations by the Mine Safety Unit, 37 such certificates were issued during the year under review.

Accidents

During the year under review, one mine worker was killed compared with four fatalities in the previous reporting period. The lost-time injury rate[1] (frequency) for the full calendar year 1985 was 24 compared with 22 in 1984 and 34 in 1983.

[1] The rate is the number of lost time injuries per million hours worked (calender years have been used for comparison).



Engineering Unit

The Engineering Unit provides engineering/ technical support for other units in the branch. It provides engineering advisory services on occupational health and safety matters to industry, employers and workers where appropriate.

During the year environmental impact assessments were reviewed, as were new projects and expansions which had a significant engineering component. Technical input was provided during investigations into several injuries, fatalities and dangerous occurrences including three crane accidents.

Occupational Hygiene Unit

The Occupational Hygiene Unit is concerned with the identification and control of health hazards in the workplace. It collects scientific data on the workplace environment from which decisions are made regarding the need for and urgency of corrective measures to prevent ill health. Recommendations on engineering control measures are made to industry where appropriate.

The unit conducted 109 surveys, mostly in response to general concerns referred to the branch. Considerable time was spent in controlling asbestos which constituted approximately 20 per cent of the surveys. Major asbestos removal projects requiring attention were at the Regina Airport, the Boundary Dam Power Generating Station and the University of Regina. A dispute between management and workers at the Prince Albert Pulp Company Limited regarding the handling of asbestos required 67 person days when hygienists were at the plant over a four-month period. In addition, the 262 samples examined in relation to the concern involved a further estimated 16 person days of laboratory time.

A general feeling of malaise by office workers constituted 20 per cent of concerns investigated. The cause of the symptoms typified by headaches and irritation of the eyes, nose and throat was frequently not identified but was associated with minimal fresh air, cigarette smoke and sometimes glare from lighting. Adjustment of these parameters usually improved conditions.

Laboratory

The laboratory provides analytical services necessary to support branch programs and is responsible for the maintenance and calibration of field equipment used in these programs. During the fiscal year, a total of 1,097 samples of workplace contamination, commercial products and urine of workers was examined to evaluate dangers in the workplace.

Industrial Toxicology Unit

The Industrial Toxicology Unit provides toxicological/medical support for other units in the branch. It provides advisory services on occupational health matters to occupational health committees, employers, workers, practicing physicians and federal and provincial government bodies. Medical evalutation and advice in occupational matters is provided by the chief occupational medical officer.

During the year under review, 20 places of employment were investigated for working conditions which may have resulted in the occurrence of several occupationally-related illnesses. Most of these were brought to the unit's attention through notifications by physicians. A total of 24 notifications were received during the year. Medical examinations were provided at five places of employment.

The unit responds to inquiries concerning toxicological properties of industrial material, hazards associated with industrial processes, limitations of existing standards, and work-relatedness of diseases; and provides scientific evidence to substantiate any advice or recommendation. During the year, research was conducted and advisory services were provided in response to 142 such inquiries. Responses were also provided to 53 inquiries for information about industrial substances of established toxicological

nature. During the year, the unit produced informational material for physicians on pesticide poisoning and on acute effects of PCB's; a booklet on pesticide safety was also prepared in co-operation with other government departments.

The unit evaluates research findings and makes recommendations for modifications of the existing regulations, as required, to reflect new scientific knowledge. The new *Occupational Health and Safety Regulations* include revisions of the contamination limits for uranium and arsenic. Adequacy of existing practice for handling antineoplastic drugs in hospitals, existing limits for hydrogen sulfide and methylene chloride and existing regulations for the first aid and emergency arrangements are currently under review.

Radiation Safety Unit

The Radiation Safety Unit is responsible for programs designed to minimize the exposure of the public to unnecessary radiation arising from unsafe or poorly adjusted radiation-emitting sources and equipment, as well as for ensuring compliance with federal and provincial regulations relating to the permissible radiation doses that can be received by occupationally-exposed workers in the province.

Legislation and Regulations

The Radiation Safety Unit enforces *The Radiation Health and Safety Act* and regulations made thereunder. Staff also enforce federal regulations under *The Atomic Energy Control Act* and *The Radiation Emitting Devices Act*. The existing *Saskatchewan Radiation Health and Safety Act* was replaced by a new Act during 1985. This was done to facilitate improved control of non-ionizing radiation sources. Regulations made under the old Act currently continue in force but a full set of revised regulations covering both ionizing and non-ionizing radiation sources have been drafted and, after internal review, will be issued for public comment.

Inspections and Consultative Services

Consultative and educational services are provided to users of radiation sources to promote high standards. X-ray inspections, consultations and
investigations cover approximately 1,000 medical x-ray units distributed among hospitals, community clinics, chiropractors, dentists and veterinarians as well as various types of non-diagnostic x-ray equipment found at universities and industrial workplaces. Under *The Radiation Health and Safety Act*, plans for new installations must be approved by the unit and any recommendations for necessary shielding must be complied with where required.

The computerization of unit records and procedures has significantly improved the ability of unit staff to access information rapidly and ensure a more thorough review of radiation-producing facilities.

The unit provides full consultant medical physics services to small hospitals which do not have a staff physicist available. This enables them to apply for accreditation by the Canadian Centre for Hospital Accreditation.

Similar consultative and educational services are provided to users of equipment emitting non-ionizing radiations such as radio frequency and microwave sources, lasers, ultra-violet lamps and sources of airborne or contact ultrasound.

Radiation Equipment Safety and Preventive Maintenance (SPM) Program

The Radiation Safety Unit administers this program under which all hospital radiation equipment must have a minimum of one SPM inspection annually. The Saskatchewan Dental Plan also participates in the SPM program.

X-ray Quality Assurance Program

In order to improve the supervision of the condition of medical x-ray installations a new x-ray quality assurance program has been introduced to supplement site visits. This new program has now successfully undergone extensive field evaluation and has been generally accepted by hospitals in the province. The program has been designed to involve, to the greatest extent possible, the x-ray technicians in hospitals. An instructional video tape has been prepared by the unit to demonstrate the required procedures for the postal test. A comprehensive manual of recommended quality assurance procedures for small hospitals has also been prepared and issued to every Saskatchewan hospital. This manual has been adopted in its entirety by the Saskatchewan Association of Medical Radiation Technologists. In view of the continuing interest in this manual, a second edition is currently being prepared.

Instrument Calibration Program

Calibration of radiation monitors for determining gamma radiation, x-rays and microwaves is now routinely carried out in the laboratory facilities. Progress in establishing a calibration facility for radon and radon daughter monitors has also been made. Developing appropriate new test

procedures is being given high priority by the unit. A full time scientist is now engaged in carrying out these laboratory measurements.

Overdose Investigations

The Radiation Safety Unit regularly receives reports of high radiation doses, as recorded by Radiation Protection Bureau personnel dosimeters. Detailed investigation of all these incidents is made before the incident is entered into the National Dose Register. In some instances, this has led to temporary restrictions on some radiation workers. Activities of the unit have helped to ensure that all changes to entries in the National Dose Register are adequately documented, both for future epidemiological studies and for proper consideration of possible compensation claims.

Matters of Public and Workers Concern

The unit has responded to a wide range of concerns which have been raised by the general public and occupational health committees. These concerns relate to all aspects of the use of ionizing and non-ionizing radiation, including inquiries about excessive use of medical x-ray procedures; radon levels in schools; radiation emissions from VDT's and microwave ovens; and radioactive contamination in homes and domestic equipment.

The Saskatchewan Occupational Health Council was asked by the Minister to review and evaluate scientific studies relating to possible health effects arising from work with VDT's. The report was made public and action will be taken after review by interested parties. Extensive tests of all types of VDT's both within the province and elsewhere have shown that no harmful radiation emissions are detectable even when using the most sensitive monitoring equipment. Documentation of these tests are available on request.

Radiation Emergencies

The staff of the unit is on 24-hour call in the event of any radiation emergency anywhere in the province. The unit also participates in training provided for members of the Emergency Measures Organization.

Publications

The unit produces guides which are intended to provide reference information on various aspects of radiation control and radiation risk assessment, for use throughout the province. Some 50 of these are now available. One research paper was published and 45 lectures and seminars were also presented during the year under review.

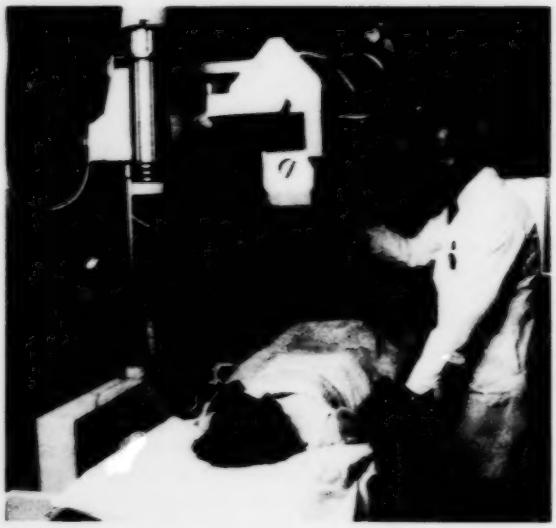


Table 10

Activity Summary,
Radiation Safety Unit,
Saskatchewan, 1981-82 to 1985-86

Activity	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86
X-ray					
Inspections	212	215	199	202	163[1]
Consultations	159	167	81	108	95
Overdose reports	10	31	53	81	74
Wipe tests, consultations, R/A sources	583	528	731	655	722
Commercial microwave oven surveys[2] and other consultations, non-ionizing radiation	361	370	431	473	503[3]
Instrument calibrations	—	12	6	43	39

[1] As of 1985-86, x-ray inspections are reported by the number of centres visited; not, as previously, by the number of x-ray units.
[2] These are carried out by public health inspectors; back-up is provided by the Radiation Safety Unit.
[3] Calendar year 1985 not fiscal year 1985-86.
Source: Saskatchewan Labour, Radiation Safety Unit files.

Technical Safety Services Branch

The objective of the Technical Safety Services Branch is to provide safety standards to industry and the general public in the fields of boiler and pressure vessel installations; electrical and elevator installations; fire safety; and gas installations.

Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety Unit

The purpose of the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety Unit is to provide minimum safety standards with respect to the design, construction, installation, operation and maintenance of both high and low pressure boilers, pressure vessels of all types, pressure plants and other related hazardous equipment.

All pressure vessels and boilers used in the province are inspected periodically. In addition, all new designs of boilers and pressure vessels and related equipment are inspected by the unit before they are installed. The unit also examines and licenses all power engineers, firemen and pressure welders thus authorizing them to practice their trade.

Legislation and Regulations

The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety Unit administers *The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Act* and regulations made thereunder. During the year under review, the schedule of fees provided for in Saskatchewan Regulations Chapter B-5 Reg 1 was repealed and replaced by Saskatchewan Regulations 18/85.

In the interest of uniformity of safety standards throughout Canada, the following codes and specifications have been adopted by order-in-council and are administered as part of the regulations under *The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Act*:

(a) C.S.A. Code B51;

(b) C.S.A. Code B52;

(c) A.N.S.I. Code for pressure piping;

(d) A.S.M.E. Code for boilers, pressure vessels and pressure welding, sections one to 11 inclusive; and

(e) Department of Transport specifications for construction and testing of liquefied propane portable cylinders.

Inspections

The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Act provides for periodic inspections of all high pressure boilers in power plants, low pressure boilers in heating plants and all other pressure vessels and pressure plants used in connection with air, hot water, steam, oil, liquefied propane, compressed gas or for refrigeration purposes. It also provides for shop inspection of all pressure vessel construction performed in manufacturing plants.

During the year under review, inspectors made a total of 10,092 inspections. Included in this total were inspections of 354 new boilers, 1,557 pressure vessels and 16 refrigeration plants which were installed in the province. Of these, 450 were manufactured in the province and were shop-inspected by inspectors during construction.

Inspectors also reset and sealed 517 safety valves, mostly used on oilfield vessels. Sixty-three vessels not stamped previously with the registration number were stamped by inspectors.

A total of 1,788 improvement orders or recommendations pertaining to improper or hazardous conditions, was made by unit inspectors in accordance with *The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Act* and regulations thereunder.

Under contract arrangements with the Canada Department of Labour, 286 inspections were made under that department's safety code.

Table 11

Number of Inspections under *The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Act*, **Saskatchewan, 1984-85 and 1985-86**

Type of inspection	1984-85	1985-86
Total	**8,965**	**10,092**
Boilers	5,671	5,722
Pressure vessels	2,883	3,948
Refrigeration plants	411	422

Source: Saskatchewan Labour, Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety Unit files.

Approval and Registration of Design

As provided in the regulations under *The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Act*, design drawings and complete specifications of every new design of a boiler, pressure vessel or fitting to be used in connection therewith, for use in the province, must be submitted to the office of the chief inspector for approval and registration before construction may be legally commenced.

During the year under review, 907 new designs were received and checked for compliance with the various regulations in force and the engineering codes adopted. Of these, 820 were registered and 87 were rejected. These numbers include 112 welding procedures, some of which were single units, but most of which were in multiple groups.

Engineers' and Firemen's Qualifications

Every engineer or fireman responsible for the operation of a high pressure boiler, a low pressure boiler of 300 or more kilowatts, a steam plant, or refrigeration plant must hold a certificate of an appropriate class, as specified in *The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Act*. Such certificates are issued to persons who have the necessary qualifications and pass an examination.

All permanent certificates are valid for as long as they continue to be registered annually with the unit. Temporary certificates are valid for one year from the date of issue and may be renewed without examination, if application for renewal is made in accordance with the regulations.

Under Section 29 of *The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Act*, the chief inspector may, in exceptional circumstances, issue a permit for a limited period of time authorizing the operation of a steam plant by a person holding a certificate one class lower than the appropriate class.

The following table shows certificates issued in each classification and the number of examination papers written, during the year under review.

Table 12

Engineers' and Firemen's Qualifications, Saskatchewan 1985

Type of certificate or examination	Examination papers written	Certificates issued	Annual registrations
Permanent certificates	**896**	**324**	**2,970**
First class	108	16	149
Second class	166	43*	315
Third class	230	46	470
Fourth class	262	122	871
Fifth class	65	46/	615
Heating plant engineer's	—	—	14
Refrigeration engineer's	65	51	536
Final traction engineer's	—	—	—
Fireman's permanent	—	—	—
Temporary certificates	**833**	**4,625**	**n.a.**
Provisional	—	—	n.a.
Special provisional	38	198	n.a.
Fireman's	733	4,036	n.a.
Refrigeration operator's	62	244	n.a.
Thirty-day permits	—	23	n.a.
Ninety-day permits	—	124	n.a.

* Includes one duplicate
/ Includes two duplicates
n.a. Not applicable
Note: The above totals include the following certificates issued on an exchange with other provinces: one second-class certificate, four third-class certificates and eight fourth-class certificates.
Source: Saskatchewan Labour, Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety Unit files.

Pressure Welding Qualifications

Welding regulations under *The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Act* provide that any pressure welding on a boiler, pressure vessel, pressure piping, or pressure plant may be done only by persons authorized by the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety Unit.

Welding authorizations are issued to persons who have passed a welder's qualification test, supervised by an inspector appointed under *The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Act*. They are renewable 18 months from the test date, subject to testing.

The number of welding qualification tests conducted during the 1984-85 and 1985-86 fiscal years is shown in Table 13.

Table 13

Welding Qualification Tests, Saskatchewan, 1984-85 and 1985-86

Type of test	1984-85	1985-86
Total tests	**638**	**922**
Qualification tests (each for four positions)	487	699
Pipeline and other special tests	151	223

Source: Saskatchewan Labour, Boilers and Pressure Vessel Safety Unit files.

Accidents

No accidents were reported during this fiscal year.

Building Standards Unit

The purpose of the Building Standards Unit is to provide minimum safety standards with respect to the construction and occupancy of buildings and provide requirements that will ensure that new buildings will be accessible to persons with physical disabilities.

Legislation and Regulations

The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act received assent on June 1, 1984 and several administrative sections were proclaimed during the 1985-86 period.

The Building Standards Unit completed a review of provincial regulations to identify those that include requirements affecting building construction in order to ensure that regulations being drafted by the unit to adopt the National Building Code of Canada in Saskatchewan would not be in conflict.

Proposed regulations to adopt the National Building Code of Canada and to provide for accessibility for persons with physical disabilities were circulated in draft to associations involved in building construction, to major municipalities and to other government departments and agencies. Sixty-four individuals and groups responded with comments on 585 different items.

Electrical and Elevator Safety Unit

The objective of the Electrical and Elevator Safety Unit is to enforce and administer the provisions of *The Electrical Inspection and Licensing Act, 1981* and *The Passenger and Freight Elevator Act*. The enforcement of these Acts provides a high measure of public safety with respect to electrical wiring, the sale and the installation of electrical apparatus and material, the sale and installation of elevators, and the licensing of persons engaged in electrical and elevator installation.

The unit examines new electrical installations, equipment and alterations and additions made thereto. It reinspects certain existing electrical installations and examines all electrical equipment intended for distribution in the province. The unit periodically inspects all passenger and freight elevators used or intended for use in the province. The unit licenses contractors, employers and tradesmen making electrical installations; suppliers of electrical equipment; and all elevators and elevator contractors.

Inspection Districts

For the purpose of conducting of electrical inspections, the province is divided into 13 rural districts and two city districts, namely Regina and Saskatoon. Electrical inspectors for rural districts, not in the immediate vicinity of these two cities, are located in Estevan, Moose Jaw, North Battleford, Prince Albert, Swift Current, Tisdale,

and Yorkton. For inspection of elevators, the province is divided into two areas, with an inspector located in Regina and another in Saskatoon.

Legislation and Regulations

The Electrical Inspection and Licensing Act, 1981 and *The Passenger and Freight Elevator Act* both provide authority for the making of regulations.

Electrical Inspections

Under the provisions of *The Electrical Inspection and Licensing Act, 1981*, permits must be obtained for all new electrical installations, additions and alterations on consumer property, and lightning rod installations.

During the year under review, 8,180 permits for very minor installations were cleared without inspection. The inspection time saved through this policy was diverted to planned reinspection of existing high-occupancy buildings and to responding to the increasing demand for information from the public and tradesmen.

In Regina and Saskatoon sampling inspections were made before electrical wiring was covered; and on all but very minor installations, inspections were made upon completion. In other areas, inspections are deferred until after the installation has been completed, except for larger installations, which require scheduled visits.

If inspections reveal non-conformance to the Act or regulations thereunder, the contractor is required to make the necessary alterations within a specified time. The same procedure is followed with respect to sub-standard lightning rod installations. Existing installations are reinspected upon requests made by fire departments, insurance companies, utilities or contractors, and by individuals concerned about safety of wiring. Owners of installations constituting a potential hazard are required to bring such installations up to standard within a specified time, which varies depending on the degree of hazard involved.

Upon examination of 22,797 installations during the period under review, 3,862 notices were issued requesting contractors or owners to remove hazards from defective installations. Of these defect notices, 502 were issued in connection with old, existing installations.

Licensing

The contractor, employer and journeyman making electrical installations, and every person engaged in the business of a supply house must hold an appropriate licence as specified in *The Electrical Inspection and Licensing Act, 1981*.

The licence indicates the qualifications of the holder and is used as a means of control in enforcing the Act and regulations thereunder. Table 14 shows the number of licences issued to contractors, employers, journeymen and operators of supply houses under the authority of the Act during the fiscal years 1984-85 and 1985-86.

Table 14

Licences Issued under *The Electrical Inspection and Licensing Act, 1981*, Saskatchewan, 1984-85 and 1985-86

Type of licence	1984-85	1985-86
Total	**1,172**	**2,083**
Contractor	**494**	**540**
Full — one-year	199	240
Full — five-year	177	201
Restricted — one-year	5	7
Restricted — five-year	13	5
Limited — one-year	99	86
Restricted — Lightening Rod — one-year	1	1
Employer	**111**	**111**
Journeymen	**567**	**1,406**
General	552	1,365
Restricted	14	37
Temporary	1	4
Supply house	**21**	**26**

Source: Saskatchewan Labour, Electrical and Elevator Safety Unit files.

Plans and Equipment Approvals

During the year under review, plans and equipment approvals for 336 institutional and industrial projects were reviewed and approved or commented on. There were 390 special acceptances of equipment of special design, after inspection and test by staff of the unit.

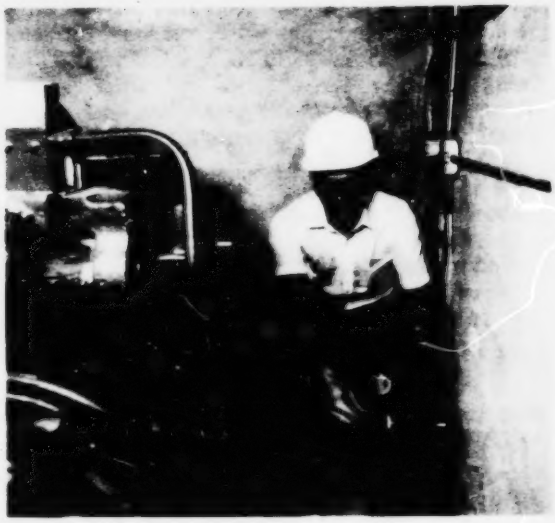
Prosecutions

No charges were laid during the year under review.

Elevator Inspections

The Passenger and Freight Elevator Act and regulations made thereunder, provide for periodic inspection of passenger and freight elevators in the province and for the annual licensing of elevators and elevator contractors. They require, further, that plans and specifications of new installations be submitted to the unit for approval and registration.

During the year under review, the unit made 1,610 routine elevator reinspections, 101 acceptance inspections and 84 special inspections. Special inspections are those made for insurance companies, those made for purposes of approving major changes in installations and those required to determine whether equipment falls under jurisdiction of the Act, whereas acceptance inspections are those done on new installations before they are permitted to be placed in service.



Licensing

Table 15 shows the number of annual licences issued during the years 1984-85 and 1985-86.

Table 15

Licences Issued under
The Passenger and Freight Elevator Act,
Saskatchewan, 1984-85 and 1985-86

Type of licence	1984-85	1985-86
Total	**1,734**	**1,779**
Passenger elevator	1,035	1,074
Freight elevator	227	217
Hand-power freight	15	15
Hydraulic freight	73	72
Electric dumbwaiter	158	153
Handicapped lift	83	110
Manlift	57	54
Escalator	20*	20*
Workman's hoist	1	—
Chair lift	—	1
T-bar	12	12
Rope tow	31	27
Elevator contractor's — Class "A"	7	7
— Class "B"	15	17

* Licences issued cover 47 escalators.
Source: Saskatchewan Labour, Electrical and Elevator Safety Unit files.

Table 16

Approvals and Registrations Issued under *The Passenger and Freight Elevator Act*, Saskatchewan, 1984-85 and 1985-86

Type of installation	1984-85	1985-86
Total	**97**	**85**
Passenger elevator	67	53
Freight elevator	2	3
Dumbwaiter	3	3
Handicapped lift	18	20
Manlift	—	1
Escalator	—	—
Workman's hoist	1	—
T-bar	2	—
Rope tow	4	5

Source: Saskatchewan Labour, Electrical and Elevator Safety Unit files.

New Installations

During the period under review, 85 specifications for new installations and major alterations were approved and registered, as shown in Table 16.

Prosecutions

There were no prosecutions for offences under *The Passenger and Freight Elevator Act* and regulations thereunder during the year under review.

Fire Commissioner's Unit

The Annual Report of the Fire Commissioner is published separately, based on the same fiscal year as is this report. It contains more detailed information on the activities of the Fire Commissioner's Unit, the causes of fires and the extent of fire loss in Saskatchewan.

The objective of the Fire Commissioner's Unit is to enforce and administer *The Fire Prevention Act, 1980*. Enforcement of the Act is intended to provide a measure of public safety from fire and to minimize property loss as a result of fire.

The unit inspects public buildings, prepares educational and practical programs in fire prevention, aids in the training of volunteer firefighters, carries out fire and arson investigations, examines plans and specifications of public buildings, keeps a record of information on fires in the province and provides assistance to other government departments, municipalities, industries, organizations, businesses, committees and individuals with respect to fire safety matters.

Inspection Districts

The province is divided into nine inspection districts. Fire prevention officers are based in North Battleford, Prince Albert, Regina, Saskatoon, Swift Current, and Yorkton. The Estevan, Moose Jaw and Weyburn districts are serviced by inspectors based in Regina. Of the seven inspectors based in Regina, four conduct the fire training program.

Legislation and Regulations

The Fire Commissioner's Unit enforces *The Fire Prevention Act, 1980* with general provisions applying to all property and the regulations enacted thereunder.

In addition the unit enforces those regulations with respect to fire protection adopted under *The Housing and Special-care Homes Act*, assists in the enforcement of municipal fire prevention bylaws and provides consultation and assistance for government projects and projects receiving government grants.

Inspections

Inspectors (fire prevention officers) of the Fire Commissioner's Unit carried out an inspection program in 1985-86 in various classes of buildings with the exception of dwellings, where inspections were made only as a result of a complaint or obvious hazard. Inspection of dwellings by local authorities is encouraged because of the large inspection staff which would otherwise be required for this activity. Hospitals, institutional buildings, schools and other places of public assembly were

inspected in the interest of fire safety. Government-owned buildings were also inspected for fire safety and evacuation procedures.

Routine inspections were conducted during the fiscal year in 191 towns, villages and hamlets.

In large urban municipalities where paid fire departments are in existence, local fire departments are encouraged to make inspections of public buildings, except in special circumstances where provincial attention is required.

During the year, fire prevention officers made 3,268 inspections excluding oil burner inspections, which are mentioned elsewhere in this report. Of this number 947 were special inspections and 401 were reinspection follow-ups on previous orders. A total of 700 orders to remedy certain conditions within specified periods of time was issued.

Inspections and improvement orders are shown in Table 17 according to class of property inspected.

Table 17

Inspections and Improvement Orders by Property Classification, Saskatchewan, 1985-86

Class of property	Inspection (calls)	Improvement orders issued
Total	**3,268**	**698**
Assembly	1,815	394
Agriplexes	5	2
Amusement centres (arcades)	1	—
Ball parks	3	—
Bowling alleys	7	1
Changing houses	—	—
Churches	384	37
Clubs	19	3
Court rooms	—	—
Day care centres	16	2
Funeral homes	—	—
Halls	382	91
Libraries	13	2
Licensed dining rooms	4	—
Museums	8	—
Pool rooms	3	—
Restaurants (cafes)	70	6
Rinks	415	94
Senior citizen centres	113	9
Schools (sheltered workshops, activity centres)	351	144
Swimming pools	11	—
Theatres	10	3
Undertaking premises	—	—
Institutional	216	39
Correction centres	6	1
Hospitals	116	28
Jails	—	—
Nursing homes	94	10
Residential	631	189
Apartments	123	39
Approved homes	50	1
Cabins	24	1
Convents, monasteries	3	1
Dormitories	16	3
Group homes	9	2
Houses	37	7
Hotels	282	121
Lodging houses	5	1

Table 17 (continued)

Inspections and Improvement Orders by Property Classification, Saskatchewan, 1985-86

Class of property	Inspection (calls)	Improvement orders issued
Mobile homes	15	2
Motels	67	11
Summer camp buildings	—	—
Business	92	2
Banks (credit unions)	1	—
Barber and hairdressing shops	—	—
Clinics (medical and veterinary)	4	—
Health spas	—	—
Laundromats and drycleaners	—	—
Offices	87	2
Radio stations	—	—
Mercantile	22	3
Car washes	—	—
Department stores	—	—
Exhibition halls	—	—
Shops	2	1
Stores	14	2
Supermarkets	6	—
Industrial	492	71
Above and underground tanks	44	18
Aircraft hangers	1	—
Auto body shops	5	1
Bakery	—	—
Bulk oil plants (propane)	212	39
Cold storage plants	—	—
Concrete plants	2	—
Creameries and dairies	—	—
Factories	12	—
Fertilizer buildings	2	—
Fire stations	53	—
Hatcheries	—	—
Laboratories	1	—
Lumber yards	3	—
Machine shops (metal, welding)	3	—
Marinas	1	—
Meat packers	—	—
Mills	—	—
Oil field supplies	3	—
Plumbing and heating shops	1	—
Power houses	1	—
Printing shops	—	—
Pump houses	7	—
Repair garages (implements)	46	6
Service stations	49	5
Storage garages and rooms	4	1
Upholstery shops	—	—
Warehouses (storage sheds)	31	1
Water treatment plants	6	—
Well drilling	—	—
Woodworking factories (shops)	—	—
Workshops	5	—

Source: Saskatchewan Labour, Fire Commissioner's Unit files.

Plans and Specifications

During the fiscal year ended March 31, 1986, 1,199 plans and specifications for new buildings, or additions to existing buildings, were reviewed. Of these 401 were approved with minor provisions and 698 were approved subject to alterations. Approval was not given in 100 examinations, either because of requirements for major redesign or because the review was only advisory. The above figures do not include sketches and drawings which were reviewed in consultation with architects and other interested persons previous to the preparation of preliminary and/or final drawings.

As in previous years, plans required to be submitted were examined in compliance with *The Flammable Liquids Regulations*, *The Hotel Regulations*, *The Hospital Fire Regulations*, *The Regulations Governing Fire Safety in Educational Buildings*, *The Regulations Governing Installation of Automatic Sprinkler Systems*, and pertinent sections of the regulations under *The Housing and Special-care Homes Act*.

In examining plans submitted for government buildings and plans voluntarily submitted for structures such as churches, lodge rooms, and dry cleaning plants, the Fire Commissioner's Unit continued to apply the National Building Code of Canada as widely as possible. Codes of the National Fire Prevention Association and other standards of good practice are also used for this purpose.

The following table shows the number of plans and specifications reviewed since 1983-84.

Table 18

Plans and Specifications Reviewed, by Disposition, Fire Commissioner's Unit, Saskatchewan, 1983-84 to 1985-86

Disposition	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86
Total	**1,406**	**1,449**	**1,199**
Approved	505	539	401
Approved subject to alteration	754	783	698
Rejected or pending	147	127	100

Source: Saskatchewan Labour, Fire Commissioner's Unit files.

Fire Investigation

During 1985-86 Fire Crime Reports were submitted for 754 investigations. Such reports are submitted by police and Fire Commissioner's Unit staff. Fire Commissioner's Unit staff participated in 171 investigations including cases in which arson was suspected, and cases in which, for fire prevention reasons, it would be in the public's interest to determine the cause of the fire. While fire prevention officers made a number of investigations unassisted, in many cases they assisted law enforcement officers in determining the cause of the fire, whether accidental or intentional in origin. The results and disposition of the Fire Crime Report investigations are illustrated in Table 19. It should be noted that all fires reported are investigated for cause, origin and circumstance by either the Local Assistant to the Fire Commissioner (secretary-treasurers, fire chiefs and their staff) or police, insurance agencies, special investigation units, the Fire Commissioner's Unit staff or a combination of these forces. Two inquiries was undertaken in 1985-86.

Table 19

Results and Disposition of Fire Crime Report Investigations, Saskatchewan, 1985-86

Disposition	Number
Total Fire Crime Reports submitted	**754**
Suspect segments listed	**759**
Unfounded arson investigations	618
Persons suspected/concluded	33
Charges laid	23
Fires still under investigation	—
Investigations persons unknown	84
Undetermined	—
Investigations status unknown	—

Source: Saskatchewan Labour, Fire Commissioner's Unit files.

Fire Record

Under the provisions of *The Fire Prevention Act, 1980* the Fire Commissioner is required to maintain a record of fires occurring in the province, including facts relating to origin and circumstances, as determined by Fire Commissioner's Unit investigations and reports of adjusters and police. Data contained in reports of fires are summarized in the Annual Report of the Fire Commissioner.

A total of 2,797 fires was reported in 1985. Electricity was the largest single cause of fire, accounting for 30.4 per cent of the total number of fires or 850 fires. Other leading causes were: coal or wood (14.4 per cent - 404 fires), flammable liquids (15.1 per cent - 423 fires), and smokers' materials (10.0 per cent - 279 fires).

The property loss for 1985 was $25,747,955. Fires in homes continued to be highest in number; in 1985, 32.3 per cent of all fires reported were in homes. This represents a total of 902 fires with property loss of $10,113,131.

The number of lives lost in fires in Saskatchewan decreased in 1985 from the previous year. In 1985, 21 persons (18 men and three children) lost their lives in fires, as compared with 26 persons in 1984.

Oil Burners

The Fire Prevention Act, 1980 and regulations thereunder require that distributors and wholesalers of oil burners obtain an annual licence, and that firms or persons installing and servicing oil-burning equipment take out an annual or quinquennial licence, as authorized by the Fire Commissioner, for such work. The number of licences and the number of oil burner installation permits issued during the fiscal year ended March 31, 1986, are shown in Table 20.

During the fiscal year 1985-86, 75 oil burner inspections were made.

Table 20

Oil Burner Licences and Permits Issued under *The Fire Prevention Act, 1980*, Saskatchewan, 1984-85 and 1985-86

Type of licence or permit	1984-85	1985-86
Total oil burner licences	**88**	**108**
Wholesalers or manufacturers (annual)	12	9
Installers (annual)	27	25
Installers (quinquennial)	49	74
Total oil burner permits (annual)	**10**	**3**

Source: Saskatchewan Labour, Fire Commissioner's Unit files.

Films

During the year under review, fire prevention and fire training films were widely distributed throughout the province. These films were used by schools, fire departments and various organizations. These films are maintained in the library of Educational Media Services, Saskatchewan Education, and bookings for such films can be made through them.

Fire Prevention Education Program

The Fire Commissioner's Unit continued to advise municipal councils and fire departments on fire protection requirements. A total of 136 fire department surveys was made during the year. Inspectors advised institutions, hospitals and hotels on fire emergency programs, fire exit drills and other safety matters. In addition, inspectors attended 128 special meetings with fire chiefs, local authorities and other persons concerned with fire prevention. The fire prevention education program is summarized in Table 21.

Table 21

Selected Activities in Fire Prevention Education, Saskatchewan, 1985-86

Selected activities	Number of meetings	Attendance
Public meetings	17	445
School lectures	110	11,405
Other lectures and demonstrations	53	1,468
Film showings	135	8,449
Fire department conferences	46	429
Municipal council conferences	9	59
Meetings with school board	10	43
Meetings with hospital board	14	114
Meetings with fire chiefs	28	28
Court cases	7	—
School fire drills	18	1,501
Building/design consultants	79	189

Note: Attendance figures are not recorded for all activities.
Source: Saskatchewan Labour, Fire Commissioner's Unit files.

Fire Prevention Week

In 1985, the week of October 6 to 12 was designated as Fire Prevention Week and was emphasized by means of lectures to school children and the distribution of films and special fire prevention literature.

The Fire Commissioner's Unit did not sponsor the Annual Fire Prevention Poster Competition for public and high schools; the resources instead were redirected to the Fire Prevention and Safety Program and the new "Learn Not to Burn" curriculum (for this year).

Fire Prevention and Safety Program

The special Fire Safety Program introduced in June 1984, which undertook promotion of a number of educational and safety activities, continued through to March 31, 1986. During it's short duration this program proved to be a very effective way of teaching safety in the event of fire in the home.

The program presented exhibits at parades; participated in exhibitions and fairs; and, most importantly, delivered an understandable and retainable message to kindergarten to grade six school children. There are reports of three families being saved because parents formulated a proper plan of action as a result of their children taking the message home.

During the year under review, Fire Prevention and Safety staff made presentations at two trade shows, set up several displays at shopping malls and fire halls, and participated in booth displays at Estevan, Regina, Saskatoon and Yorkton exhibitions, and at Agribition and Mexibition. Staff were also involved in five in-service programs to introduce the "Learn Not to Burn" curriculum into the school system.

During the fiscal year, 137 presentations were made in 120 schools, thus providing 20,704 students and teachers and 2,042 parents and others in attendance a worthwhile life safety message.

Firefighters' Training and Fire Prevention Programs

During the fiscal year, training schools for volunteer firefighters were conducted in 54 towns and villages. Of the total registrants at these schools, 930 student firefighters completed the training courses and received certificates. The number of schools conducted, location and date of training is shown in Table 22.

The first modules of the full Fire Fighter Certificate Course were 10 Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus courses conducted with 208 students receiving evaluation reports. During the fiscal year, fire prevention officers lectured and gave tabletop fire demonstrations at 25 fire prevention meetings in hospitals, schools, hotel association workshops, and other similar events.

Fire Protection Associations in Saskatchewan

There are now over 95 rural fire protection associations in operation, protecting rural homes or a combination of rural and urban homes in smaller centres. Most of the associations cover districts, financed on a taxation basis, and they protect from one to three rural municipalities. They include some towns, villages and hamlets within their particular rural municipalities. Several rural fire departments are operating on a co-operative basis and by subscription.

Provincial legislation provides for agreements to share the cost of firefighting equipment under the various municipal Acts, and provides for taxation over all or part of any municipality for fire protection. There are over 500 pumping units in the province, each with a capacity of 425 gallons or more per minute.

Table 22

Volunteer Firefighters' Training Schools, Saskatchewan, 1985-86

Location	Period
Prelate	April 1, 2, 3, 1985
Burstall	April 1, 2, 3
Hutterite Benkh Colony-Shaunavon	April 9, 10, 11
Tompkins	April 9, 10, 11
Mankota	April 15, 16, 17
Bengough	April 22, 23, 24
Wood Mountain	April 22, 23, 24
Zealandia	April 29, 30, and May 1
Perdue	April 29, 30, and May 1
Kindersley	May 6, 7, 8
Luseland	May 6, 7, 8
Macklin	May 21, 22, 23
Dodsland	May 21, 22, 23
Watrous	May 27, 28, 29
Conquest	May 27, 28, 29
Belle Plaine	June 3, 4, 5
Wakaw	June 3, 4, 5
Buena Vista	June 17, 18, 19
Key Lake	June 17, 18, 19
Key Lake	June 24, 25, 26
Hepburn	June 24, 25, 26
Leask	July 2, 3, 4
Duck Lake	July 2, 3, 4
Hafford	July 8, 9, 10
Battleford	July 8, 9, 10
Paradise Hill	July 15, 16, 17
Loon Lake	July 15, 16, 17
Canwood	July 22, 23, 24
Big River	July 22, 23, 24
Cumberland House	July 29, 30, 31
Spalding	August 6, 7, 8
Weyakwin	August 6, 7, 8
Quill Lake	August 12, 13, 14
Kelvington	August 12, 13, 14
Wynyard	August 19, 20, 21
Mistatim	August 19, 20, 21
Churchbridge	August 26, 27, 28
Esterhazy	August 26, 27, 28
Nokomis	September 3, 4, 5
Fort Qu'Appelle	September 9, 10, 11
Grenfell	September 9, 10, 11
Odessa	September 16, 17, 18
Storthoaks	September 23, 25, 26
Maryfield	September 23, 25, 26
Manor	September 30 and October 1, 2
Stoughton	September 30 and October 1, 2
Wilcox	October 7, 8, 9
Macoun	October 7, 8, 9
Radville	October 15, 16, 17
Maidstone	October 15, 16, 17
Pangman	October 21, 22, 23
Lang	October 28, 29, 30
Sedley	October 28, 29, 30
Turnor Lake	December 11, 12
Cypress Hills	February 11, 12, 1986

Source: Saskatchewan Labour, Fire Commission Unit files.

Gas Safety Unit

The objectives of the Gas Safety Unit are to foster and promote safety and to enforce and administer the provisions of *The Gas Inspection and Licensing Act* and regulations thereunder. The enforcement of this Act provides a high measure of public safety with respect to the manufacture, sale and installation of gas equipment for consumers and the licensing of fitters and contractors who are engaged in the work of gas installation.

The unit inspects new installations and alterations, replacements or additions made to existing installations with priority given to the more hazardous ones. Existing installations in domestic dwellings and in public and high- occupancy buildings are periodically reinspected. The Gas Safety Unit licenses contractors, employers and tradespersons making installations; suppliers of consumer equipment; bulk propane dispensing plants; and filled propane cylinder dealers. The unit examines gas appliances and equipment stocked for redistribution within the province and may field test one-of-a-kind gas fired units not specifically covered by an authorized national standard.

Inspection Districts

For purposes of inspection, the province is divided into nine districts with offices in Estevan, Humboldt, Moose Jaw, North Battleford, Prince Albert, Regina, Saskatoon, Swift Current and Yorkton. Six inspectors, the assistant chief and the chief are assigned to Regina and its five sub-districts; three inspectors and one senior inspector are assigned to Saskatoon; two in North Battleford and one each to the remaining offices.

Standards and Specifications

Under the auspices of the Canadian Gas Association and direction of the Interprovincial Gas Advisory Council, work continues on the upgrading and development of standards for the manufacture and testing of consumer equipment and specific appliances. Three national authorities accredited by the Standards Council of Canada test to these standards, and each provides a distinctive labelling service on appliances and equipment meeting specifications contained in authorized standards.

Certification, testing and labelling services for gas equipment are provided by agencies accredited by the Standards Council of Canada. Each agency makes available on demand confidential copies of test reports for gas equipment. The chief gas inspector makes the final decision on what equipment is approved for sale, installation or use in the province. Although most products are labelled by the accredited testing organization, some small quantity products are given local approval by the chief gas inspector.

Defects and unauthorized changes found on new production, stocked or installed equipment are ordered to be rectified by the manufacturer or his representative at no cost to the consumer. Approvals are withdrawn from manufacturers who persist in violating terms of manufacture, certification listing and product labelling contracts.

Legislation and Regulations

The Gas Safety Unit administers *The Gas Inspection and Licensing Act* and regulations thereunder. During the year under review, no new legislation was introduced.

Safety Program

Following established practice, field staff were actively engaged in advising contractors, instructing tradespeople and participating at rural gasification program meetings, at which the inspector would invite and reply to public and contractor inquiry, acquaint consumers with the functions of the unit, and outline the principal requirements for safe, efficient gas utilization.

Natural and Propane Gas Consumers

As of March 31, 1986, approximately 273,401 consumers were connected to Saskatchewan Power Corporation's natural gas distribution system and an estimated 45,000 propane consumers were supplied by independent propane utilities.

Inspections

New domestic installations made in cities and rural areas receive a first inspection from the utility which consists of a visual inspection of equipment and a pressure test of the gas piping. The utility sets the meter and activates the equipment if deemed safe.

The Gas Safety Unit completes the follow up or final inspection. This is a detailed operational checkout of appliances, safety controls, venting and fire prevention clearances. Approved equipment compliance is checked on this inspection.

When installations fail to conform to provincial minimum standards, inspectors list the deficiencies requiring correction. Immediate hazards are reported to contractors orally or by telephone, followed by a notification in writing stating the period of time in which corrections must be made.

Unit inspectors also attend the initial turn-on and test firing of commercial and industrial gas-fired boilers and equipment with an input in excess of 400,000 B.T.U. per hour.

A total of 57,683 inspection calls was made in the period under review, a breakdown of which is shown in Table 23.

In total, 5,696 written notices requesting correction or removal of hazards to life, health or property were issued on new installations and a similar number of correction orders listing lesser hazards were left with owners of existing installations.

Immediate hazards to life, health and property necessitate follow-up inspection. Lesser hazards are spotchecked to determine the extent of corrective compliance.

Table 23

Number of Inspections, by Type of Inspection, Gas Safety Unit, Saskatchewan, 1984-85 and 1985-86

Type of inspection	1984-85	1985-86
Total	**54,727**	**57,683**
First (leak test prior to meter set)	8,295	2,852
Final (acceptance test)	12,702	11,331
Additions (new and used appliances)	2,449	2,745
Replacements (defective appliances)	7,278	8,347
Piping alterations	2,319	2,126
Temporary heating — new construction	1,394	1,124
Investigation and special inspections	414	336
Reinspections — domestic and high-occupancy buildings	4,573	6,968
Mobile homes and travel trailers	445	232
Trouble calls — smoke and sulphur tests, defect reinspection	6,173	10,788
Propane storage and dispensing plant inspection.	103	299
Miscellaneous calls and not-home cards left	8,852	8,360

Source: Saskatchewan Labour, Gas Safety Unit files.

Accidents

Gas related accidents resulting in persons being hospitalized due to carbon monoxide poisoning, fire and explosions were investigated by the Gas Safety Unit.

Three fatalities occurred in the remote north as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning released from a Servel propane free-standing refrigerator.

Recourse to Bonds

Sureties were called upon to complete the work of several delinquent contractors and to correct installation defects left in suspense by business failures. Corrections were made without additional cost to consumers.

Reinspections

Reinspection of residential and high occupancy buildings continues. A total of 6,788 reinspections was made and 40 per cent of these revealed hazardous or clean-up conditions on which 2,715 correction orders were issued.

Reinspections indicate a need for continuing education in the field of equipment maintenance and servicing. The program provides opportunity to evaluate equipment and to bring to light that which is prone to failure or potentially hazardous.

Consumers were encouraged to have their equipment checked and serviced by a qualified licensed gas contractor on an annual basis through the distribution of brochures to all natural gas consumers.

Public Safety

In light of numerous failures of prefabricated metal chimneys discovered by inspectors, the Gas Safety Unit issued releases to the news media warning consumers of the potential hazards. Several television interviews were made in the interests of public safety.

Licensing

Under the provisions of *The Gas Inspection and Licensing Act*, propane bulk storage and cylinder filling plant operators, installation contractors, employers, fitters and wholesale suppliers of gas appliances and equipment are required to hold a licence. Licences are issued on a one-year basis or for a term not exceeding five years to individuals or companies who comply with the conditions of licensing set forth in the Act and regulations made thereunder.

The number of licences in effect during the fiscal years 1984-85 and 1985-86 is shown in Table 24.

Table 24

Licences in Effect under
The Gas Inspection and Licensing Act,
Saskatchewan, 1984-85 and 1985-86

Type of inspection	1984-85	1985-86
Total	**2,906**	**3,096**
Domestic gas fitter	956	990
General gas fitter	1,008	1,061
General gas contractor	328	350
Domestic gas contractor	271	242
Limited gas contractor	96	81
Gas supply house	19	17
Employers	56	56
Propane bulk filling plants	172	299

Source: Saskatchewan Labour, Gas Safety Unit files.

Pensions Branch

The Pensions Branch is the main body of pension policy expertise in the Government of Saskatchewan. The branch administers *The Pension Benefits Act*, provides information and advice on retirement income matters and serves as the focus for the development of retirement income policy and program alternatives. Its policy advisory role is particularly important in light of the current national pension debate.

Functions

The Pensions Branch has the following specific functions:

(a) to administer *The Pension Benefits Act* and the regulations thereunder;
(b) to advise the government with regard to retirement income matters;
(c) to develop pension policy and program alternatives;
(d) to prepare pension legislation and regulations and related documentation;
(e) to conduct research on retirement income matters, including studies of the social, economic and fiscal impact of alternative pension arrangements;
(f) to participate in intergovernmental discussions and negotiations on pension matters;
(g) to consult with interest groups on pension issues;
(h) to prepare and distribute, to the public, information and educational materials; and
(i) to provide technical advice to various provincial agencies.

Legislation

The Pensions Branch is responsible for ensuring that employees' financial interests in private pension plans are protected. This goal is accomplished through the enforcement of *The Pension Benefits Act* and regulations thereunder.

The Pension Benefits Act applies to all plans organized and administered for employees engaged in employment in Saskatchewan. The Superintendent of Pensions is responsible for ensuring that all pension plans comply with the following legislative requirements:

(a) Registration — All private employer/employee pension plans must be filed for registration with the superintendent.
(b) Information Returns — Each plan must file an Annual Information Return stating contributions made to the plan and number of employees retired and number of memberships terminated. Every three years an actuarial valuation must be filed for each "defined benefit" plan.
(c) Solvency — Sufficient monies must be in a pension plan to pay for the benefits promised at any point in time.
(d) Funding — Contributions to a pension plan must be made in a regular uniform fashion and if there are special payments owing the plan to fund deficits they must also be remitted over a specified amortization period.
(e) Investments — The regulations under *The Pension Benefits Act* regulate the investment of pension fund monies both qualitatively and quantitatively.
(f) Minimum Vesting Standard — Members of pension plans must become entitled to their benefits, with a minimum of one year of service, when their years of service plus age equal 45.
(g) Disclosure — Each member of a pension plan is entitled to a written explanation of the terms and conditions of the plan and his rights or obligations.
(h) Plan Terminations — The superintendent approves the dispositon of all pension plan assets when a pension plan is wound-up.
(i) Reciprocity — The Superintendent enforces the terms of agreements between himself and other jurisdictions to provide for the reciprocal registration, audit and inspection of pension plans.

The Canadian Association of Pension Supervisory Authorities (CAPSA)

CAPSA is comprised of senior government officials who administer pension regulatory legislation in each of the jurisdictions with similar legislation (Alberta, Manitoba, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Quebec, Saskatchewan and the federal government). This group has been active in the area of establishing and revising minimum legislative standards for occupational pension plans. The organization facilitates an exchange of ideas regarding the administration of private pension plans, with the objective of making regulatory legislation uniform across Canada. The Superintendent of Pensions has been an active participant in all CAPSA deliberations.

Pension Plan Statistics

During the 1985-86 fiscal year, 70 new pension plans were registered, 291 amendments were approved, 478 annual information returns were received and 31 plans were wound-up.

The Pensions Branch maintains an arrangement with Statistics Canada for the compilation of pension plan statistics. The most recent statistics show that there were 151,958 Saskatchewan

employees participating in 1,452 pension plans. Table 25 provides a summary of selected features of Saskatchewan pension plan membership. These figures include employees participating in pension plans which are registered and monitored by other jurisdictions under reciprocal agreements. In addition, the data include members of public employee pension plans which are not subject to *The Pension Benefits Act*.

Table 25

Selected Features of Pension Plan Membership by Sector, Contributory Status and Sex, Saskatchewan, March 31, 1986

Sector	Total	Male	Female
Both sectors	**151,958**	**96,849**	**55,109**
Contributory	122,467	72,926	49,541
Non-contributory	29,491	23,923	5,568
Public sector	**84,596**	**47,281**	**37,315**
Contributory	84,208	46,895	37,313
Non-contributory	388	386	2
Private sector	**67,362**	**49,568**	**17,794**
Contributory	38,259	26,031	12,228
Non-contributory	29,103	23,537	5,566

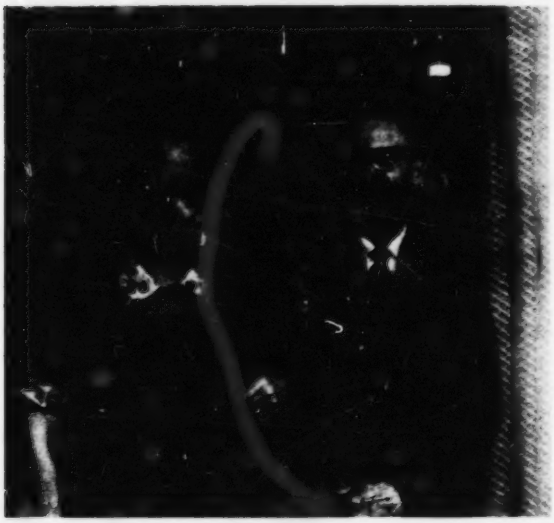
Source: Saskatchewan Labour, Pensions Branch files.

Policy and Program Development

The Pensions Branch is responsible for conducting research and providing advice on the broad range of pension policy issues. The branch develops and examines pension policy and program alternatives at the national and provincial levels, undertakes in-depth research projects on pension-related issues, analyzes major pension reports, and prepares background and briefing materials. Some of the activities have included:

(a) determine the adequate minimum level of retirement income;
(b) investigate the income position of the elderly, analyze federal studies regarding adequate replacement income in retirement and prepare briefing material regarding the inadequacies of the current retirement income arrangements;
(c) prepare research material on social service expenditures in Canada from the international perspective;
(d) draft alternate proposals for the reform of the national retirement income system;
(e) report on the characteristics of private pension plans in Saskatchewan;
(f) prepare briefing material on the investment procedures of pension funds and compare federal and provincial investment regulations;
(g) prepare summaries of major pension reports;
(h) report on the matters of inclusion of homemanagers in the CPP, pensions and divorce, survivor benefits and the splitting of CPP pension credits;
(i) prepare historical information on the development of the current retirement income system;
(j) participate in national conferences with respect to reforms within the national retirement income system; and
(k) prepare research material and background information on technical and social implications of reforms within the national and provincial retirement income systems including:
- improved vesting and lock-in requirements,
- improved survivor benefits,
- pensions as family assets,
- interest credited on employee contributions to employment pension plans,
- elegibility to and participation in employment pension plans,
- sex discrimination in employment pension plans, and
- inflation protection of benefits.

The Pensions Branch staff is knowledgeable about the national social security pension system and the operation of the private pension system. Branch personnel review pension developments in other jurisdictions, and participate in national, federal-provincial and provincial discussions of pension reform. The branch consults with labour, business, and other special interest groups to obtain and assess opinions with respect to proposed and existing programs. The branch is also responsible for public education efforts with respect to pension matters.



Minimum Wage Board

The Minimum Wage Board, subject to the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, may issue orders with respect to certain labour standards.

At the end of March 1986, the membership of the board was as follows:
Ms. Mary Rocan, Chairperson, Regina; Mrs. Elsie Hannon, Saskatoon; Mr. T. D. Mills, Regina; Mr. J. S. Rootman, Regina. There is one vacancy on the board.

The board determines the minimum wage, the minimum meal break period, the maximum charge by employers for meals or lodging provided, the minimum age at which persons may be employed, and the period in any day in which the hours of work of employees shall be confined. It also requires an employer to repair and launder uniforms; that female employees be provided with free transportation to their residence after completion of work shifts during certain hours of the day; a detailed pay statement to be presented to employees; and that employees be paid for rest periods granted by employers.

The minimum wage regulations do not apply to employees working in undertakings in which only members of the employer's family are employed; agricultural workers; persons employed in sheltered workshops or work activity centres for the socially, physically, or mentally impaired, or handicapped; or employees employed exclusively as domestic workers in private homes except where a wage subsidy is given to the employer from public funds.

Minimum Wage Board Orders

The Minimum Wage Board Orders in force during the fiscal year 1985-86 are summarized in Table 26.

Table 26

Minimum Wage Board Orders in Force in Saskatchewan during 1985-86

Order	Applicable to	Minimum Wage Board Order provisions
No. 1	All employers and employees	$4.50 per hour effective August 1, 1985. Every employee, other than a school student in regular attendance during the school term, a janitor, a caretaker or a building cleaner, who is required to report for duty, other than for over-time, shall be paid a minimum sum of $13.50, whether or not he is required to be on duty for three hours on that occasion.
No. 2	Hotels, restaurants, educational institutions, hospitals and nursing homes	This order requires employers to provide certain benefits to employees with respect to working shifts, transportation for female employees, uniforms, meal periods, board and lodging.
No. 3	All employers and employees	This order requires an employer to deliver to each of his employees a detailed statement of his earnings and deductions therefrom.

Appendix 1

Legislation Administered by the Saskatchewan Department of Labour

The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Act
The Building Trades Protection Act
The Construction Industry Labour Relations Act
The Department of Labour Act
The Electrical Inspection and Licensing Act, 1981
The Employment Agencies Act
The Fire Departments Platoon Act
The Fire Prevention Act, 1980
The Gas Inspection and Licensing Act
The Labour-Management Dispute (Temporary Provisions) Act
The Labour Standards Act
The Occupational Health and Safety Act
The Passenger and Freight Elevator Act
The Pension Benefits Act
The Radiation Health and Safety Act
The Trade Union Act
The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act

Appendix 2

Authorized Staff of the Saskatchewan Department of Labour

Authorized Staff of the Saskatchewan Department of Labour, as of March 31, 1986

Branch	Total permanent positions
Total	**239.3**
Administrative Services Branch	34.3
Policy Planning and Research Branch	12.4
Labour Relations Branch	10.0
Office of the Worker's Advocate	6.0
Labour Standards Branch	25.1
Pensions Branch	4.0
Occupational Health and Safety Branch	38.0
Technical Safety Services Branch	109.5

Appendix 3

Publications Available from the Saskatchewan Department of Labour

Labour Standards Branch

Labour Standards Act (office consolidation) and regulations*	free
Labour Standards pamphlet	free

Policy Planning and Research Branch

Saskatchewan Labour Annual Report	free
Saskatchewan Labour Report (monthly)	free
Wages and Working Conditions, by Occupation (annual)	free
Saskatchewan Labour Legislation (biennial)	free
Non-wage Provisions in Saskatchewan Collective Agreements (annual)	free

Labour Relations Board

Decisions of the Saskatchewan Labour Relations Board and Court Cases Arising Therefrom

Vol. 1 (1945-54)	$35.00
Vol. 2 (1955-64)	$35.00
Vol. 3 (1965-74)	$75.00

Technical Safety Services Branch

Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety Unit

Canadian Standards Association B51 Code for Construction and Inspection of Boilers and Pressure Vessels	$11.50
Canadian Standards Association B52 Mechanical Refrigeration Code	$20.00
Refrigeration Operators' Home Study Course	$17.00
Basic Building Operators	$25.00
The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Act and regulations*	free

Electrical and Elevator Safety Unit

Canadian Standards Association Standard C22.1-1978, Canadian Electrical Code, Part I (13th Edition), Essential Requirements and Minimum Standards Governing Electrical Installations for Buildings, Structures and Premises (all potentials)	$12.00
Canadian Standards Association Standard C22.5-1978, Canadian Electrical Code, Part V, Use of Electricity in Mines	$8.00
Canadian Standards Association Standard C22.1-1982, Canadian Electrical Code, Part I (14th edition)	$20.00
Canadian Standards Association Standard B44-1975, Safety Code for Elevators, Dumbwaiters and Escalators	$16.00
Canadian Standards Association Standard Z185-1975, Safety Code for Personnel Hoists	$7.50
Canadian Standards Association Standard B44-1975, Safety Code for Elevators, Supplement No. 1	$4.00
Supplement No. 2	$4.00
Supplement No. 3	$6.00
Canadian Standards Association Standard CAN3-Z98-M78, Passenger Ropeways	$12.00
Canadian Standards Association Standard B311-M1979, Code for Manlifts	$13.00
The Electrical Inspection and Licensing Act, 1981 and regulations*	free
The Passenger and Freight Elevator Act and regulations*	free

Fire Commissioner's Unit

Annual Report of the Saskatchewan Fire Commissioner	free
Canadian Standards Association Standard B139-1976, Installation Code for Oil Burning Equipment (one copy issued initially to oil burner installers without charge)	$10.40
IFSTA 200 Manual, Essentials of Fire Fighting	$22.20
N.F.P.A. No. 13, Sprinkler Systems	$6.00
The Fire Prevention Act, 1980 and regulations*	free
Leaflets and pamphlets concerning fire safety	free

Gas Safety Unit

Canadian Gas Association Standard Can 1-B149.1-M80, Installation Code for Natural Gas Burning Appliances and Equipment	$10.00
Canadian Gas Association Standard Can 1-B149.2-M80, Installation Code for Propane Burning Appliances and Equipment	$14.00
The Gas Inspection and Licensing Act and regulations*	free
Pamphlets concerning gas safety	free

Occupational Health and Safety Branch

The Safe Workplace (newsletter, occasional)	free
*The Occupational Health and Safety Act**	free
*The Occupational Health and General Regulations**	free
*The Accident Prevention Regulations**	free
*The Mine Regulations**	free
Noise Control (book)	$5.00
Various hazard alerts, thermal guidelines, etc.	free
The Radiation Health and Safety Act, 1985 and regulations*	free
Various research papers related to radiation safety	free

* It is the policy of Saskatchewan Labour to provide up to five copies of its Acts and regulations free of charge. Orders in excess of five copies should be directed to Saskatchewan Supply and Services, Acts and Publications Activity, Main Floor, East Wing, T. C. Douglas Building, 3475 Albert Street, Regina, Saskatchewan, (306) 787-6894.

Note: All prices are subject to change

Available from the
Saskatchewan Department of Labour
1870 Albert Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4P 3V7